

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

March 2, 2017

Dr. Ben Carson
Secretary
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20410

The Honorable Scott Pruitt
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Secretary Carson and Administrator Pruitt:

Congratulations on your confirmations to head the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Environmental Protection Agency. We appreciated the commitments you made during your confirmation process to support our efforts in responding to the ongoing environmental crises at the USS Lead Superfund site in East Chicago, Indiana. Given the critical nature of the work your agencies are conducting, we would like to invite you to visit the site to experience the situation directly.

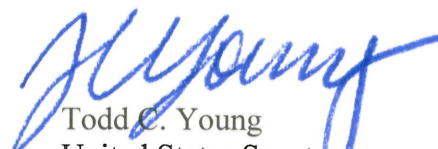
We think that visiting with the residents in the impacted areas to get a first-hand perspective of the challenges facing the community will help you as you lead your agencies' response efforts. In recent months, hundreds of Hoosier families in the West Calumet Housing Complex have been uprooted from their homes and some are still searching for new residences. Children from the area have tested positive for dangerous levels of lead in their blood and the area's residents now have to worry how their own backyards are impacting their families' health. It is a situation that needs continued assistance from the federal government.

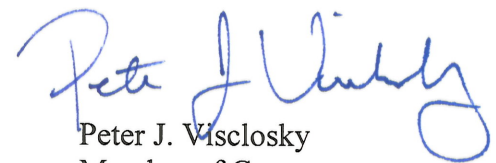
Visiting with the residents is the best way to understand the difficulties facing the community. We believe that hearing directly from those experiencing the confusion of leaving their homes and worrying about the potential long-term health effects from lead contamination will be helpful as the agencies you lead respond to this environmental disaster.

We look forward to arranging for your visit at your earliest opportunity.

Sincerely,


Joe Donnelly
United States Senator


Todd C. Young
United States Senator


Peter J. Visclosky
Member of Congress